ByWard Market BIA Executive Director

From: ByWard Market BIA Executive Director
Sent: February 10, 2022 4:10 PM
To: Ashley Hopkins; andrewpeck@downtownrideau.com
Subject: Daily Demonstration Meeting - Notes - Feb 10, 2022

Open to Qs

- Pressure on Sussex and Rideau – not seeing progress/not hearing of progress. Mat not stopping until it opens up, nearly 10 hours of calls
- Phil's team trying to get an opening of George and Dalhousie
    - Still status quo
    - You can still go up York and Willilam, to get in if required. May depend on the officer, they want to ensure that no one who shouldn't go down doesn't go down.
    - Any issues, let Traffic know, and they can bring it up at the NCRCC group
    - William being used by police, quite a bit, sit there. They are there. Problem with vehicles going the wrong way.
    - Ensure that it's a presence, not blocking the road. Already shifted for today, but flagging for shift change.
- Has anyone seen arrests or seizure of vehicles?
    - Yes, Zach, police activity was significant. Not huge busts, but clearing out a lot of individuals in the way. Kudos to Bylaw, removals, out of transit… yesterday a lot more active. Not sure if it's shifted.
- Comment in Chat – Sara from Met in a meeting nearly in tears over the issues at their location.
- Transit safety officers removing folks in the LRT
- Any movement at Sussex/Rideau?
    - Cleaned up most of Rideau; 2-3 moved into log pile at Rideau/Sussex
    - Rideau is now clear, but the corner remains the same.
    - At the mall – are all exits closed? Bay opened today on George St
        - No issues yet. Negligible sales, more staff than customers.

Seb

- No update on arrests, media avail at 3:30 from OPS. Expecting to get significant updates this afternoon.
- Thanks to Nathalie, sending social media posts and tik tok videos. In some cases officers aware, but in others a bit ahead of the game.
- No update on Rideau/Sussex but hear you want it open ASAP, asking to be a little more patience.

Steve – OGHA –

- Tiktok issues with some of the hotels; protestors, alerted organizers took it down right away – they're trying to manage the messaging, recognizing the reception of the industry.
- A fair amount of trucks have left. Bit of a rift, concern that $ isn't flowing as they would have liked it to flow.
- Some Hotels tested reservation systems and shut them down. Many hotels remaining systems closed – don't want this business. Chance this weekend could be really big, but it could be foolishness.

Jitesh – Bay has opened, 10 customers, 25 staff. But police still saying it's not safe to go downtown. When is it going to be safe to go downtown – Rideau Centre has tenants asking if it's safe to even go in and do inventory.

- OPS won't say it cut and dry, but media releases so folks can come to their own conclusions. Last one did say don't come to the downtown core.
- On inventory, not sure what the policy is, but can appreciate some don't want to come.
- Not sure there's an answer here. Are letting staff in, but they're worried because they saw the news and it's not safe. Need to get over this to get back to business, not sure when it's going to be clear.

- Have some tenants coming in to do get ready, but smaller tenants are scared.

Take away – assuming we can get a resolution at Sussex/Rideau, but police presence. Not a shock and awe and back to normal, but visibility on the ground and raise it up the command, that we need continued community presence for some time.

- Will see the presence for a few days after this. Maintain community engagement team, still out and about with certain NRT officers. Hear you, and bring it up when there is significant change, and whomever drafts releases. More direction in relation to clients – ask from BIA. Push for an encouragement for business to resume.

How is the police support if Rideau chooses to open

- Hard to say, could be difficult to get resources. A lot of dynamics with trucks leaving, and rumours and intelligence with different demonstrators making their way this weekend. Until we see significant change, status quo for now.
- Sales lost at Rideau - $20M a week. Losing valentine's

Take away – formal email from OPS for the language on a media release for businesses

- 10s of millions loss at hotels in the downtown. Nearly $40M. Actual numbers in March.

Coventry is out of Control – coordination point, going up and down the highway

- Less big rigs, more everybody elses
- Coventry is on OPS radar
- Updates there, but can't share at this point
- On FB as the point for blue collar convoy 2022, demo scheduled for Sunday meeting at the ball – up to 5000 people. MPP Hillier

Out organized and maneuvered from this protest, are we taking steps that we're planning around it? Working on plan to get traffic moving around and do we have a timeline?

- Daily updates, very fluid. For smaller scale stuff, complaints. Approved sites with the City, find someone setting up camp/shop in an area for public/officer safety – redirect it to one of the approved sites, Coventry being one; 1500 Bronson is another staging area. All hope it ends soon.

Looking forward component, have a few tenants, precarious situation getting out of covid, looking forward to reopening and this is the extra bit making it more stressful. Happy to participate in any way, how to re-welcome and encourage people to the area.

- Free LRT? Incentives?

Pat King – can follow up. A lot of variables. On the radar.

Offer from a business as they're closed – space and on the roof if they need it.

Michelle – Q for Min McLeod's office – Small business grant – many retailers affected by this don't qualify for it. Please take it back to the Minister.
Feb 16 – Economic Round Table – big marketing campaign approach. It's not just promo, free services to the core, etc. Boost. Michelle will escalate it.

Encourage OCOBIA and other BIA's to reach out to Media – wages, business support, $. Might want to request meeting with Mat, Cindy Van Buskirk, City media team, what the comms look like.

- Lucille – appreciated the concern about the Grant. Concern about the threat on schools, in touch with school board that folks are aware? Someone will get in touch, with recommendation on how to handle it. If any contacts with schools,
- Summary of committee, and if the ON gov't made any commitments. SG didn't show up; or at the tripartite table. Paul Calendra was there, gave talking points. Business grant open. Looking for other ways to push. Looking for numbers, so the government can't hide behind what was provided.
- Ashley can get data/information from BOMA. Narrow down specifics of what looking for. Looking for impact on businesses, and OPP resources.

- About OPP – no specific numbers. Anecdotally more in the hotels, see more in traffic in Centretown. Put in chat – do a written question.

Vanier – liaising with Canadian Tire – have sold out of horns, tents. They'll let folks know if there's suspicious stuff being sold. Check out Walmart over the bridge.

- Local commercial intelligence.

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Kalin McCluskey
Executive Director | Directrice générale
ByWard Market Business Improvement Area (BIA)
Zone d'amélioration du marché By (ZAC)
202-267 rue Dalhousie Street
Ottawa, ON – K1N 7E3

Tel: 613-562-3325

www.byward-market.com
Facebook | Instagram | Twitter